

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 247

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Retired Lieutenant Gwin King of Mount Juliet.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Retired Lieutenant Gwin King; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant King was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Gwin King served with acumen and alacrity as Lieutenant over the Investigative Division of the Mount Juliet Police Department, in which position he earned the respect of his colleagues and community alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant King began his more than forty-eight-year career in law enforcement with the Lebanon Police department in 1964, where he served for five years before moving on to work for the Tennessee Highway Patrol as a Trooper in Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, he was elected Sheriff of Wilson County, in which position he served for eight years before going to work in the Fugitive Apprehension Division of the Pinal County, Arizona, Sheriff's Office; he moved back to Tennessee in 1987 and served the Mount Juliet community from then until his retirement in 2012; and

WHEREAS, over his nearly fifty-year career, Lieutenant King contributed greatly to the law enforcement profession; he was responsible for solving fifty-eight murders and three major kidnappings, as well as many armed robberies; and

WHEREAS, he was also a trailblazer in the law enforcement community; he was the first police officer in Wilson County to attend the formal law enforcement training academy, the first K-9 Handler at the Lebanon Police Department, and the first Lieutenant over the Investigative Division for the Mount Juliet Police Department; he was on the Tennessee Highway Patrol's riot

squad and was present for the Lane College Riots in Jackson, opened the first Juvenile Detention Center in Wilson County, and served on the Judicial Drug Task Force, where he had the largest seizure of vehicles used in crimes to date; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant King was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his loving wife of fifteen years, Debbie Lynn King; his children, Chris King, Greg King, Melanie McFarlin, Joey King, Cristi Steele, Misty Matheson, Katee Mullins, and T.J. Stephens; his grandchildren, Matt King, Ryan King, Braxton McFarlin, Tanner King, Brailey McFarlin, Brianna King, Carissa King, Katelynn Matheson, Xander Steele, Skylar Steele, Kendra Matheson, Dashton Keen, Jarret Galu, and Kinsley Matheson; and his great-grandson, Lincoln King; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents, Doverd and Anna Massey King; his brother, Gordon King; and his sister, Dorothy "Dot" Nivens; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Gwin King leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory and service of Lieutenant Gwin King, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Lieutenant King.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.